

## Patent claims

1. Method for definition of structures of object and/or data models (OM) in which schemata (XS1, XS2) describe the structures, with a version of the relevant schema (XS1, XS2) being labeled in a first attribute (10, 20) of a schema (XS1, XS2), with the namespace (1) used in the relevant schema and the type and element name (11a.. 14a, 21a, 24a) used in the relevant schema (XS1, XS2) being preserved independent of the version, with types and elements (11..14., 21...24) only being expanded while preserving the type or element name (11a.. 14a, 21a, 24a) and with unexpanded types and elements (21..24) being accepted unchanged into schemata (XS2) of a newer version from the types and elements (11..14) used in schemata (XS1) of an older version.
- 15 2. Method according to Claim 1,  
characterized in that  
a calendar date can be assigned via a second attribute (D1,  
D2) to a version of a schema (XS1, XS2).
- 20 3. Method in accordance with Claim 1 or 2,  
characterized in that  
the schemata (XS1, XS2) are described by an extensible markup language.
- 25 4. System for definition of structures of object and/or data models (OM), with at least one schema (XS1, XS2) for description of the structures, with a first attribute (10, 20) of a schema (XS1, XS2) being provided for identification of a version of the relevant schema (XS1, XS2), with the namespace (1) used in the relevant schema (XS1, XS2) and the type and element names (11a..14a, 21a..24a) used in the relevant schema

(XS1, XS2) being preserved regardless of the version, with a mechanism being provided for expansion of the types and elements (11..14, 21..24) while preserving the type or element name (11a..14a, 21a..24a) and for unchanged acceptance of 5 unexpanded types or elements (11..14, 21..24) used in schemas (XS1) of an older version into a schemas (XS2) of a newer version.

5. System in accordance with Claim 4,  
characterized in that

10 a calendar date is assigned via a second attribute (D1, D2) to a version of a schema (XS1, XS2).

6. System in accordance with Claim 4 or 5,  
characterized in that  
the schemata (XS1, XS2) are described by an extensible markup  
15 language.